18. Discuss the key principles of Transcendentalism and their reflection in the works of Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman.

19. How does *The Glass Menagerie* explore themes of reality vs. illusion and the impact of past memories?

20. Analyse the themes of sin, guilt and redemption in *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Shanmuga Industries Arts & Science College
T.V.Malai

APRIL/MAY 2025

23UEN22 — AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

1. Who were the Puritans and why did they migrate to America?

2. What is the significance of the term The First Frontier" in American literature?

3. Define Transcendentalism in one or two sentences.

4. Name two writers associated with Romanticism in America.

5. What is the central theme of "O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman?

6. What metaphor does Robert Frost use in "Birches," and what does it symbolize?

7. What is the significance of the raven in Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Raven"?

8. How does Emily Dickinson portray death in "Because I could not stop for Death"?

9. What is the central message of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream speech?

10. What does Ralph Waldo Emerson emphasise in "Self-Reliance"?

SECTION B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

11. (a) Explain the impact of puritanism on early American literature.

Or

(b) Discuss the major themes in transcendentalist writings with reference to Emerson and Thoreau.

12. (a) How does walt Whitman expresses admiration for Abraham Lincoln in "O Captain my Captain".

Or

(b) What is the role of nature in Robert Frost's "Birches"?

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13. (a) Analyse the theme of loss and mourning in Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Raven".

Or

(b) How does Emily Dickinson personify death in "Because I could not stop for Death'?

14. (a) Discuss the rhetorical devices used in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream' speech.

Or

(b) What are the main ideas presented in Emerson's "Self-Reliance"?

15. (a) Discuss the themes of memory and illusion in Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*.

Or

(b) Analyse the significance of symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*.

SECTION C — (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

Answer any THREE questions.

16. Examine the influence of Puritanism on American society and literature.

17. Compare and contrast the optimistic and pessimistic views in American Romanticism.